Vol. VII. Numb. 55

THE OBSERVATOR.

A Letter from the West, *about a high-flying Mayor and Alderman's ſending Men away for Soldiers, who had Licenſes to travel with Goods. Tyranny inſeparable from that Faction. The Laws againſt unlawful Games, for a Caution to thoſe who threaten to follow 'em in Spite, becauſe the Abuſes of* Bartholomew-*Fair are put down. Canon of the Church againſt Clergy-mens being Gameſters.*

From Saturday, Auguſt 21. to Wednesday, Auguſt 25. 1708.

Country-m. HEre's a Letter to you, Maſter, from a Burrough in the *Weſt* of *England*, with an Account of a horrid Oppreſſion by a high-flying Mayor.

Obſ. Read it, *Roger*.

Country-m. 'Tis thus, Maſter:

SIR, *B-----ble, Auguſt* 15. 1708.

'I Have obſerv'd you to have handl'd illegal Practices very judiciouſly, ſo I am emboldened to 'give you Information of one that happen'd in 'this Corporation the 2d Inſtant, that I ſuppoſe 'cannot be parallel'd in *England*, *viz.* There was 'two young Men born in the *Northern*-moſt County of *South Britain*, who, for their better Livelyhood, took themſelves to travel to this Part of the 'Kingdom; and having been Abroad for ſome 'Time, one of them had a Mind to return to his 'Country, to ſee his old Mother before ſhe dies, 'and ſo left off his Trade at *Midſummer*, the Licenſe then being expir'd; he only ſtay'd to take 'up what Money was due to him, and to pay off 'his Creditors, before he return'd. But on that 'Day there being a Warrant given to the Conſtable to ſearch for Vagabonds and Strangers, he 'was apprehended as one, and immediately hurry'd 'out of his Quarters on *Sunday* Night, to Priſon, 'and the next Day, our Mayor, and one Alderman, ſent him away a Soldier; and his Brother, 'who had his Licenſe granted at *Midſummer* laſt, 'for one Year, for which he pay'd 4 *l.* and to my 'Knowledge hath pay'd ſo much every Year for 'ſeven Years paſt, the Mayor took no Manner of 'Notice of his Licenſe, but ſent him away likewiſe, becauſe he appear'd in his Brother's Cauſe. 'Now, I am a Creditor to both thoſe young Men, 'and ſo are ſeveral *Londoners*, and we are all like 'to be Sufferers, ſeeing the young Men are hurry'd 'out of their Buſineſs, their Goods unſold, and 'Debts unreceiv'd, that none can collect but themſelves, it lying ſo far Abroad, according to their 'Travels. Unleſs this Grievance be redreſs'd, 'tis 'to no Purpoſe for us to take out Licenſes, if they 'will not protect us againſt ſuch unlawful Proceedings; for our Conſtables will paſs by the looſeſt 'Fellows for a ſmall Bribe, and a little Drink, as 'I can prove; and will take hold of ſuch as thoſe 'Men, that pay more to her Majeſty Yearly, than 'the Mayor and all his 12 Conſtables, he himſelf 'being but a 12 *l.* 10 *s.* Man, Stock, and no Eſtate, 'by Trade a ------. Sir, I hope you will take No-'tice of it, and ſet it out to publick View; for I 'know not what cauſes this Envy in the Mayor a-'gainſt thoſe Men, unleſs it be their ſmall Trade, 'or elſe, that they are not High-flyers, as he would 'have them. I am, Sir,

Your humble Servant.

Obſ. 'Tis a rueful Story indeed, *Roger*. The beſt Advice I can give in the Matter, is, that the young Mens Creditors in *London*, ſhould apply themſelves to the Recorder, or ſome other Gentleman learn'd in the Law, to draw up the Caſe for them, and lay it before my Lord Chief Juſtice *Holt*, who having been always a true Patriot, as he has for many Years been an unbyaſs'd Judge, will do Juſtice in this, as he has done in other Caſes of the like Nature, where the Malice of Faction has perverted the Law: For certainly 'twas never the Deſign of the Act, that Perſons who follow an honeſt Way of Living, and pay annually ſo much to the Queen, ſhould be taken up as Vagabonds. The Letter is ſo full of it ſelf, that I need not inſiſt upon it; for the Practice is ſo foul, that 'tis not capable of Aggravation; but 'tis the true Spirit of the Party. They would make us all Slaves, if they could; but bleſſed be God, their Power can't keep Pace with their Will.

Country-m. I have always thought the leading Tantivies, and their ſilly Followers, or Diſciples, like the Fowls call'd the Man of War Bird, and the Boobies in the *Weſt Indies*, Maſter.

Obſ. How is that, *Roger*?

Country-m. Why, Maſter, the Man of War Bird, is an idle ravenous Animal, that does not care to take Pains for its own Food, but watches the Boobie, and whenever it ſees him, gives him a Polt on the Back with his Bill, which forces the Boobie to diſgorge the Fiſh he has ſwallow'd down, and then the Man of War Bird catches and devours it, and ſo lives by the other's Labour.

Obſ. The Compariſon is not amiſs, *Roger*. The true Reaſon why the Leaders of that Set of Men have always maintain'd arbitrary Principles, was, that they might be ſupported in tyrannizing over others; and their being depriv'd of that Power now, by the Toleration, is the true Cauſe of all that Rage and Malice they expreſs in their *Rehearſal*, and other venomous Pamphlets againſt the Principles of the Revolution; which, tho' they be not able to confute, yet they conſtantly rail and ſnarl at, as you may ſee by their Mouth, the *Rehearſer*, who ſo boldly undertook to diſprove the joint Power of our Parliaments with our Princes, in making Laws, and the coercive Power, which our Conſtitution has lodg'd in them, over Tyrants. But every one may ſee how far his Performance comes ſhort of his Promiſes; and that when he is baffl'd by Argument, he is for calling another Cauſe, ſhuffles and quibbles, and betakes himſelf to railing and uttering of impudent Falſhoods.

Country-m. I believe moſt People are ſatisfy'd of that, Maſter, you have ſo plainly prov'd ſo many Inſtances of it upon him; and particularly his falſe Charge upon you for writing againſt the Abuſes of *Bartholomew*-Fair, as if you had done it out of Envy to the Church, which is ſtill believ'd and ſpread by his Party, eſpecially thoſe about *Smithfield*, who reap'd Advantage from the Abuſes committed there, as if 'twere the greateſt Truth in the World. But the Faction ſay, they will be even with us, Maſter; if they can't have Drolls, *&c.* in the Fair, they will have them in Houſes, and will game and raffle in Spite of all the Low-Church-men, Reformation-men, Informers, Fanaticks, *&c.* in *Britain*.

Obſ. Poor Souls! They are their own greateſt Enemies. The War they wage, is againſt the Laws of God, as well as thoſe of Man; and 'tis a Shame to the Name of Proteſtant, that any of them ſhould be guilty of ſuch Practices, as are ſtill prohibited by

Laws

Laws which were made in Popiſh Reigns; therefore, *Roger*, out of Kindneſs to theſe obſtinate People, and ſuch as entertain them in their Houſes to game, *&c.* I ſhall put them in Mind of thoſe Statutes which are ſtill in Force againſt ſuch Gaming, that if they have no Regard to the Laws of God, they may at leaſt take Care to avoid thoſe Penalties to which they may make themſelves liable by the Laws of Man.

1. 'By 39 *Eliz.* Cap. 4. all Fencers, Bearwards, 'common Players of Interludes wandring Abroad, 'ſhall be taken and judg'd Rogues, Vagabonds, 'and ſturdy Beggars, and be puniſh'd as by this 'Act is appointed, *viz.* Shall, by the Advice of 'the Miniſter, or any other two of the Pariſh, be 'publickly whipp'd, and paſs'd to the Place of his 'Birth, or where he laſt inhabited; or if neither be 'known, committed to the common Goal, and 'kept to hard Labour. Conſtables, *&c.* neglecting 'their Duty, to forfeit 10 *s.* Perſons who moleſt 'or hinder thoſe who put this Act in Execution, 'are to forfeit 5 *l.* and to be bound to their good 'Behaviour.

2. 'All Licenſes to Actors, or common Players, '*&c.* are taken away by the Statute of 1 *Jac.* 1. 'Cap. 11.

3. 'By 33 *Hen.* 8. Cap. 9. no Perſon, of what 'Quality ſoever, ſhall by himſelf, or others, main'tain any common Houſe, Alley, or Place of Bowl'ing, Coyting, Tennis, Dicing Table, or Card'ing, or any other Game prohibited by any Sta'tute heretofore made, or any unlawful new Game, 'now invented, or hereafter to be invented, on 'Pain of forfeiting 40 *s. per* Day, for ſuffering any 'ſuch Game in any ſuch Houſe or Place. Every 'Perſon playing there, is to forfeit 6 *s.* 8 *d. per* Time. 'Juſtices of the Peace, Mayors, or other Officers, 'ſhall enter ſuch Houſes, where they ſuſpect ſuch 'Games to be held, arreſt and impriſon the Keep'ers of the Houſes and Gameſters, 'till they find 'Sureties to do ſo no more. And Juſtices of the 'Peace, Mayors, Conſtables, *&c.* not ſearching 'ſuch ſuſpected Houſes, and not executing every 'Thing elſe according to this Statute, ſhall, for e'very ſuch Offence, forfeit 40 *s.* No Artificer, Craftſ'man, Apprentice, or any other Servant, ſhall play 'at any of the Games aforeſaid, out of *Chriſtmas*, 'and then only in their Maſters Houſes, on Pain of '20 *s.* and all other Perſons 6 *s.* 8 *d.* All Offences 'againſt this Statute to be proſecuted within a Year, 'one half of the Forfeitures to be to the King, and 'the other to any that ſhall ſue for the ſame.

4. 'All Licenſes for keeping any Gaming-Houſes, 'are taken away by the Statute of 2 and 3 *Phil.* and '*Mary*, Cap. 9.

Country-m. Well, Maſter, I think this is a very kind Caution both to thoſe who keep Gaming-Houſes, and to ſuch as game; and I think it ſhould for ever ſtop the Mouths of thoſe, who charge ſuch as endeavour to reform ſuch Abuſes, as Fanaticks, Low-Church-men, Buſy-bodies, and vexatious Informers, *&c.* And it ſhould likewiſe put thoſe Men to the Bluſh, who employ'd the *Rehearſal* to libel you, as an Enemy to the Church, for writing againſt the Abuſes of *Bartholomew*-Fair. But let thoſe obſtinate Offenders ſee to it; you have given them fair Warning, as alſo to ſuch Juſtices, Conſtables, and others, who do not perform their Duty. But there's one Thing more I have to ſay to you, Maſter; I have heard ſeveral People defend their following ſuch Games, from the Practice of Clergy-men, whom they ſee playing at Cards, Tables, *&c.*

Obſ. I am ſorry for it, *Roger*. Thoſe Men ſet but very ſorry Examples to their Flocks; and do likewiſe act contrary to the 75th Canon of our Church, which forbids her Miniſters to play at Cards, Dice, or Tables, or any other unlawful Game, by Day or by Night, on Pain of Eccleſiaſtical Cenſure.

Advertiſements.

Juſt publiſh'd

¶ Windſor-Caſtle, a Poem, inſcribed to the Immortal Honour of our moſt gracious Sovereign Anne, Queen of Great Britain, France, and Ireland. Sold by *B.* Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row. price 6 d.

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¶ Compleat Sets of the Obſervator, or ſingle ones, ever ſince it was begun by Mr. Tutchin, to this Time, are to be had of B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row, and H. Meere at the Black-Fryar in Black-Fryars.

Theſe are to give Notice,

†‡† That Mary Kirleus, Widow of John Kirleus, Son of Dr. Thomas Kirleus, a ſworn Phyſician in Ordinary to King Charles II. ſells (exactly prepar'd) his famous Drink and Pills, experienc'd above 50 Years, to cure all Ulcers, Sores, Scabs, Itch, Scurfs, Scurvies, Leproſies, Running of the Reins, and the moſt inveterate Venereal Diſeaſe, with all its attending Symptoms, without Fluxing, Confinement, or deſtructive Mercurial Preparations. Theſe incomparable Medicines need no Words to expreſs their Virtues; the many miſerable Ones, that have been happily cur'd, after given over by others, ſufficiently recommend them as the moſt ſovereign Remedy in the World againſt all ſuch Malignities. She cures many after Fluxing, and in Compaſſion to the Diſtreſs'd, will deal according to the Patient's Ability. The Drink is 3 s. the Quart, the Pills 1 s. the Box, with Directions; and Advice gratis. ¶ She lives at the Golden Ball in Hand-Court, over againſt Great Turn-Stile, in Holborn.

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¶ Any Gentlemen, who have any thing to communicate to the Author of this Paper, are deſir'd to direct it to be left with H. Meere, at the Black-Fryar in Black-Fryars, for the Obſervator, Poſt pay'd. Where Advertiſements are taken in.

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